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Utah Water Conditions Update

SALT LAKE CITY (Jan. 18, 2024) – Assessing Utah's water conditions in mid-January reveals a unique narrative. While much of December witnessed scarce precipitation, the trajectory shifted with early January storms, bringing our snowpack to normal levels for much of the state.

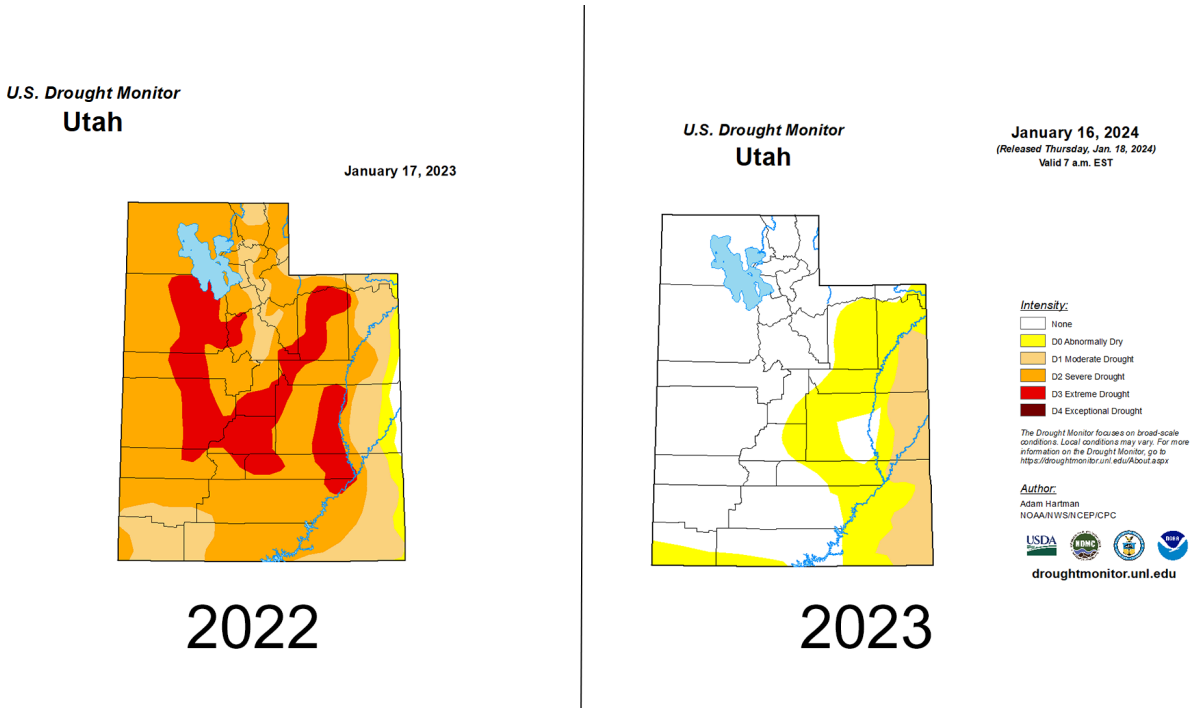
"These fluctuations highlight the dynamic nature of our terrain and weather patterns," Candice Hasenyager, director of the Division of Water Resources, said. "It's imperative to stay aware and responsive to our changing water supply conditions to ensure the resilience of our water supply."

Despite the dry December, reservoirs statewide stand at a robust 80%, a significant 23% higher than the usual levels for this time of year. This is due to the record-breaking snowpack last year. Our reservoirs continue to be vital in storing water for various needs. For the most part, reservoirs will likely stay near these levels until spring runoff.

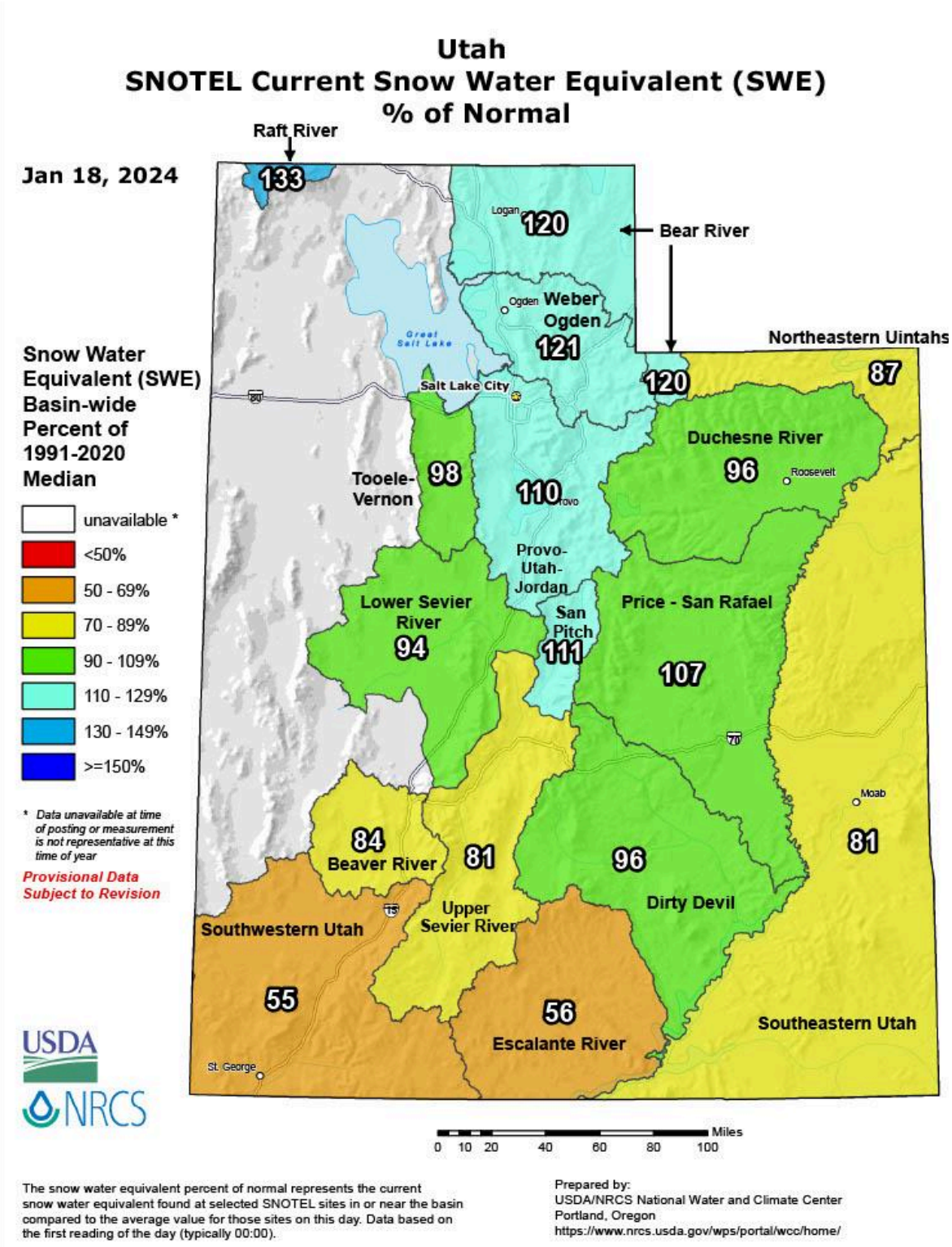
"As we navigate the winter season, these dry and wet periods underscore the need for ongoing commitment to use less water and vigilance in water management," Hasenyager said. "Water experts are monitoring these fluctuations and planning accordingly ahead of spring runoff."

To encourage water conservation among Utahns, the Department of Natural Resources continues to promote initiatives such as the Agricultural Optimization Program for farmers and SlowtheFlow.org for residents. These programs aim to educate and incentivize water-saving practices, ensuring Utahns become more drought-resilient and prepare for future conditions.

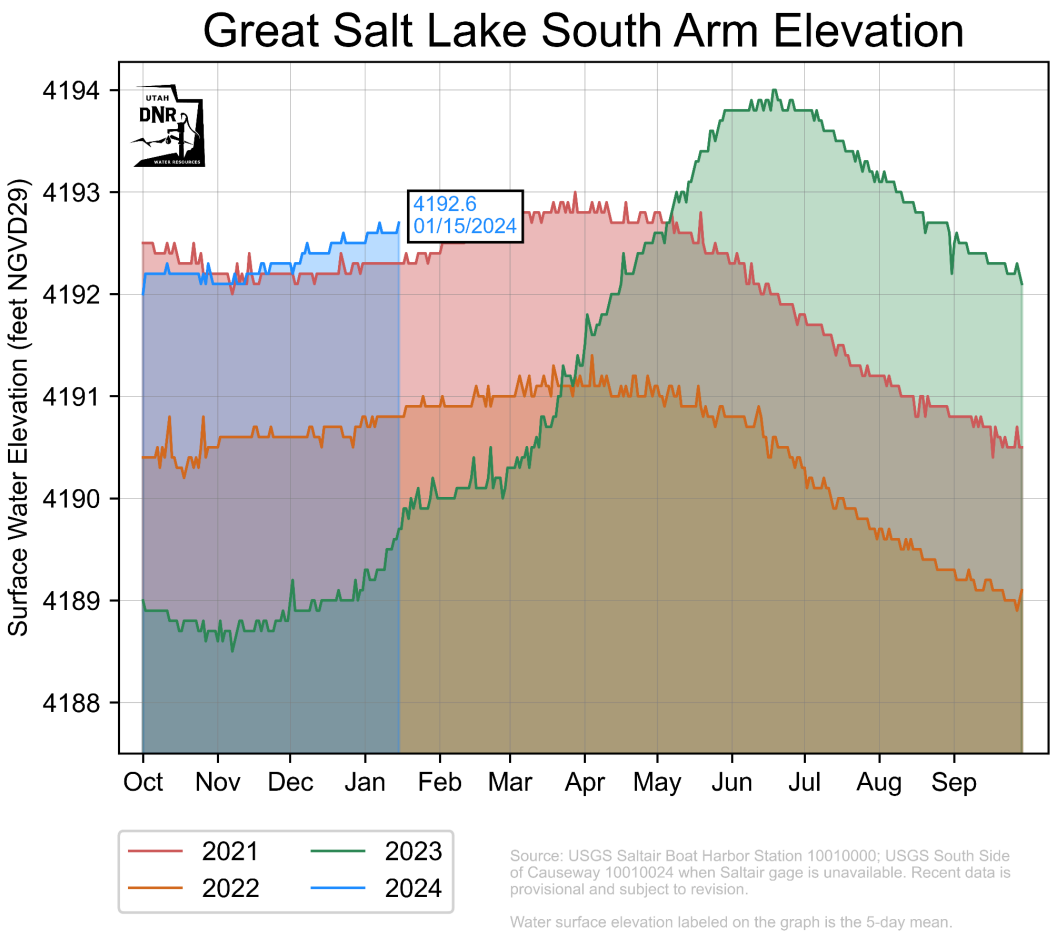
# # #



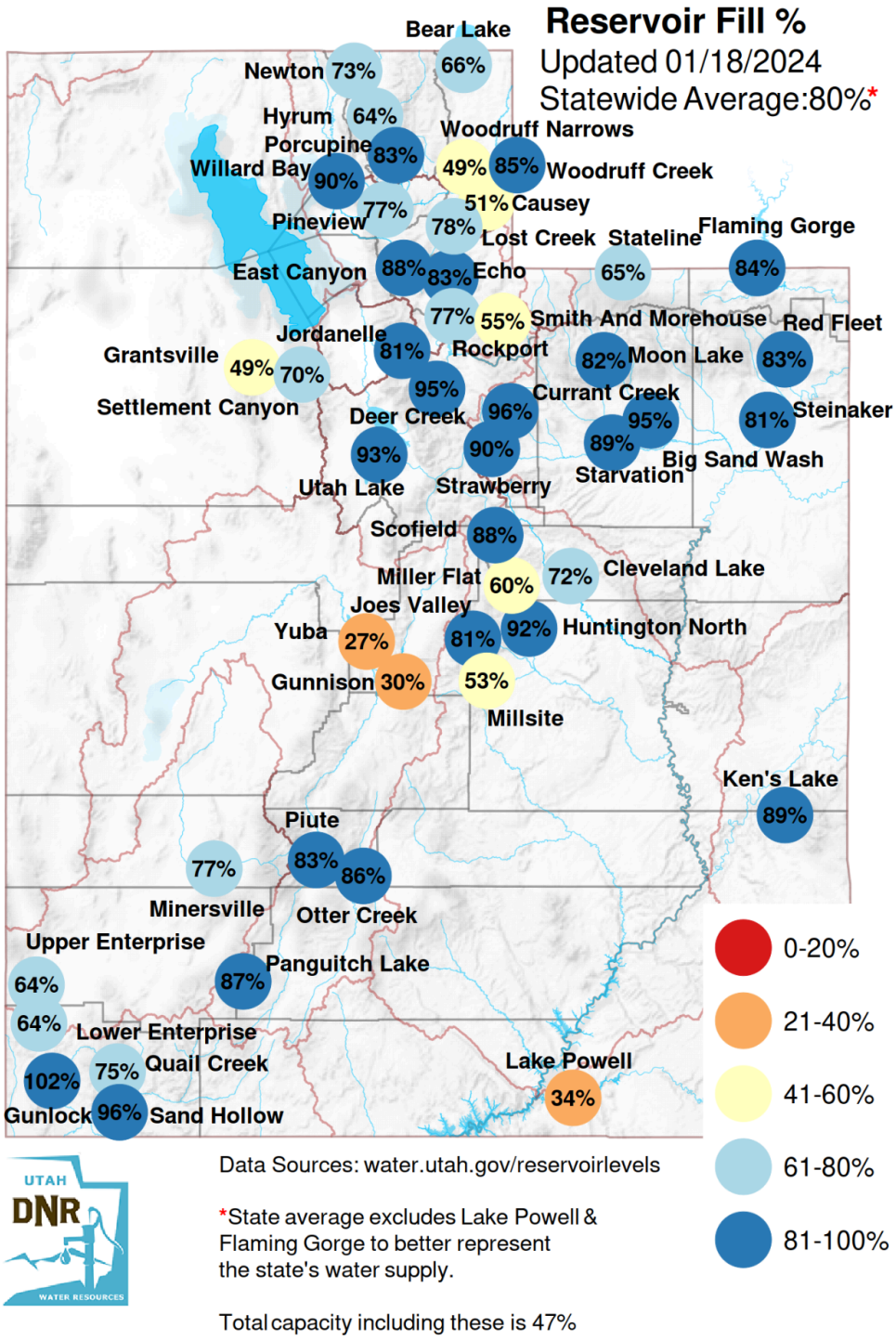
Graphic compares Utah's current drought situation to 2022. Currently, moderate drought covers 9% of the state. Last year at this time, 77% of the state was in severe drought.


Utah
SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)
% of Normal
Jan 18, 2024
Raft River
133
Logan
120
Bear River
Ogden
Weber
Ogden
121
Great Salt Lake
Northeastern Uintahs
87
Salt Lake City
120
Duchesne River
96
Roosevelt
Tooele-
Vernon
98
110
Provo
Provo-
Utah-
Jordan
Lower Sevier
River
94
San
Pitch
111
Price - San Rafael
107
Moab
81
84
Beaver River
81
96
Dirty Devil
Upper
Sevier River
Southwestern Utah
55
56
Escalante River
Southeastern Utah
St. George
Snow Water
Equivalent (SWE)
Basin-wide
Percent of
1991-2020
Median
unavailable *
<50%
50 - 69%
70 - 89%
90 - 109%
110 - 129%
130 - 149%
>=150%
* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year
Provisional Data
Subject to Revision
USDA
NRCS
Miles
0 10 20 40 60 80 100
The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).
Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/

. [Source - NRCS]



The graph shows Great Salt Lake levels since 2021. Great Salt Lake levels are likely to slowly increase until spring.



For more information, visit drought.utah.gov